

**Statement prepared for National March on Washington for Justice**

**AS BAPTIST CLERGY OF WASHINGTON DC, WE SUPPORT THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CONNECTION WITH JENA 2. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT THE IMPETUS FOR THE MARCH IN A METAPHORICAL SENSE IS TIED TO AN INSTRUCTIVE LETTER PENNED BY DR. MARTIN L. KING FROM THE BIRMINGHAM JAIL.”**

**THE LETTER CONTAINS A MOST A GRIPPING STATEMENT OF CONSCIOUS THAT RESONATES WITH PROFOUND CLARITY. THE STATEMENT, “INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE” IS A PERSUASIVE REMINDER THAT JENA SIX AND OTHER INCIDENTS OF INJUSTICE BASED ON RACE AS A FACTOR IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE REALITY THAT SOMETHING BIGGER IS OPERATING IN THE MORAL ORDER OF OUR SOCIETY THAT IS BOTH DANGEROUS AND INJURIOUS.**

**IT APPEARS FROM EVERY DIAGNOSIS OF JUSTICE WHERE INCIDENTS LIKE KATRINA AND JENA SIX ARE CONCERNED THE LAWS GOVERNING RACIAL FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE ARE NOT EQUAL. THE ADMONITION OF PROPHET MICAH GOES FURTHER THAN DR. KING’S STATEMENT REGARDING RACIAL JUSTICE, HE IMPLIES THAT NOT ONLY SHOULD WE TAKE TO HEART THE FACT THAT “INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE” BUT MICAH SAYS- IT IS GOD WHO REQUIRES US TO DO JUSTICE, TO LOVE MERCY AND WALK HUMBLY WITH OUR GOD. (MICAH 6:8).**

**JUSTICE IN THE CASE OF THE JENA 6 AND SIMILAR RACIAL INCIDENTS CALLS INTO QUESTION THE VERACITY OF THE JUSTICE GUARANTEED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE PREPARED BY THE HANDS OF MORTAL MEN WHO DECLARE THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE CREATED EQUAL AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.**

**THANK GOD FOR THE SPIRIT OF THE MEANING BEHIND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BUT MICAH THE PROPHET, SAYS HEAR OUR GOD SPEAK TODAY. IT IS GOD WHO MANDATES AND REQUIRES JUSTICE, MERCY AND HUMILITY. GOD DESPISES HANGING NOOSES, RACIAL HATRED AND UNEQUAL JUSTICE. MICAH, MARTIN AND THE MEN OF OLD ARE SPEAKING TO THE CONSCIOUS OF OUR NATION TODAY.**

**THE GATHERING OF PEOPLE OF ALL RACES, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS FOR A MARCH SUCH AS THE ONE SCHEDULED ON NOVEMBER 16, 2007 IS PURPOSED IN THE THEOLOGICAL PREMISE THAT GOD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**GOD’S VOICE IS LOUDLY MANIFESTED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE WHEN MARCHING FEET, CLAPPING HANDS AND TRUMPETING VOICES SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER AND RENOUNCE THE APPARENT LACK OF JUSTICE IN JENA, AND IN OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS THE NATION.**

**AFTER THE MARCHING IS OVER, WE MUST COMMIT OURSELVES TO GO A STEP FURTHER BY CONTACTING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND URGE THAT THEY TAKE A CLOSER AND CRITICAL LOOK AT OUR LEGAL SYSTEM AND THE REALITY OF RACISM IN AMERICA AT THIS MOST IMPORTANT HOUR IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY.**

